

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dakota Chapman on his act of courage and heroism.

WHEREAS, over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State because it has been the home of so many valiant men and women who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is Dakota Chapman who, on September 29, 2012, responded to a life-threatening situation with bravery and valor; and

WHEREAS, while returning home, a minivan struck the driver's side of his mother's vehicle, which contained Dakota, his mother, April Chapman, his three-year-old brother, Aaron, and his six-year-old cousin, Emily Schultz; and

WHEREAS, the crash impact knocked the car into a ditch and Mrs. Chapman was unable to open her door to exit the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, although he was asleep when the accident occurred, Dakota quickly got out of the vehicle, helped his cousin Emily to exit the vehicle as well, then raced to his mother's aid. She soon realized her injuries from the crash were preventing her from removing her youngest child, and smoke began to come from the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, keeping his wits about him, Dakota aided in getting his brother out of the car, encouraged his mother with calming words, shared vital information with assisting paramedics, and retrieved his mother's cell phone to call family members; and

WHEREAS, his actions at the scene and later at the hospital caught the attention of Blount County Rescue Squad Chief Keith Sartin, who thanked him for his assistance and honored him for his courageous actions with a heroism award; and

WHEREAS, just eleven years old at the time of the incident, Dakota Chapman displayed incomparable maturity, strength, and courage in the face of danger and deserves this body's recognition for his heroism that day; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dakota Chapman for his unwavering bravery in the face of danger, applaud his life-saving actions, and extend our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.